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CULTURAL eMAGAZINE

INK OCHi

FIRST OF ITS KIND FROM KERALA

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SEKRENYI Festival Nagaland

CULTURAL eMAGAZINE
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EDITOR & PUBLISHER
Varghese T. Thomas
varghese.ink@gmail.com

EDITORIAL DESK
Annie Smitha
anniesmitha.ink@gmail.com

Alicen Jacob
alicen.ink@gmail.com

DESIGN & LAYOUT
Hari N Nair
Viswanath Gopal

MARKETING & ADVERTISEMENT
Suresh Panickar

For editorial, advertisements and feedback:

FOLLOW US :

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inkochi_magazine
Phone/WhatsApp : 8547 107 471
Email:
inkochi.emagazine@gmail.com

Editor's Note

Education is the best way to liberate a woman

When we liberate a woman, we liberate a community too. A liberated woman will use her education and her freedom to liberate her family. She will care about the well being of those around her and will continue to fight to uplift the people around her.

From her younger age a woman should be made aware of the value of education. Not just the education you get in a classroom nor the one provided by the public education system, but the one by which she seeks herself. She should surround herself with people completely different from her, i.e., people who look, feel, believe, think, see, interpret, respond, and act differently than her. She should grow up thriving on diversity and everything it has to offer. She should read… everything, anything, different things. She should grow up seeking more knowledge and new ideas. She should pursue anything her heart desires. She should grow up knowing that life isn't a race, but if she follows her heart it will be the best journey ever. These endless experiences will educate her in ways a classroom cannot.

These experiences will not just educate her, but liberate her!

Happy Reading...!!
Varghese T. Thomas

Sekrenyi Festival

NAGALAND

Sekrenyi Festival, observed for 10 days, the Sekrenyi festival is one of the significant festivals of the Angami tribe. This festival is believed to sanctify men of the tribal community.

Locally known as Phousanyi, the Sekrenyi festival is one of the significant festivals of the Angami tribe. >>

Sekrenyi Festival

The festivities are held on the month of January in the north eastern state of Nagaland. The festival is observed just after Terhunyi. Sekrenyi is the festival that sanctifies men.

The entire community is imbued into the tempo of the festival celebration. The people of Angami tribe fete this festival to possess good fortune and to acquire blessings in the lives of the people. In the bygone era, the festival continued for 10 long days. Nowadays, it has been curtailed and is celebrated for 6 days only.

Etymology of Sekrenyi

The word Sekrenyi is an amalgamation of the two words 'sekre' meaning sanctification and 'thenyi' means festival. >>

Sekrenyi Festival

Celebration of Sekrenyi

The mode of celebrating this festival is unique. For sanctifying the males, water is brought from nearby well or spring, a fireplace is prepared by chafing splints or bamboo blades. A cock or hen is then sacrificed.

A number of rituals and ceremonies are involved with the festival.

On the first day, which is known as ‘Kezie’, people sprinkle themselves with a few drops of rice water drawn from a pot named ‘Zumho’. The drops of water are first gathered into leaves, and the chief lady of the house reverently fixes the leaves at the three main corner pillars of the house. This is followed by the men assembling at the well to bathe. >>

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Sekrenyi Festival

On the second and third day, young men of the village assemble to perform ritualistic purifications. The men adorn themselves with two new shawls, and then ritualistically sprinkle the holy water on their chests, knees and right arms as a mark of washing away all their sins and ill luck. When they come back from the well, a sacrificial offer of a cock is performed.

The fourth day of the festival marks the New Year of the Angamis. It begins with revelry by singing and feasting which lasts for three days. The men and women of the community wear traditional dress. While men carry head hunting spades, women carry baskets.

Men play a crucial role in cooking in this temporary fireplace, utilizing separate utensils. Later, they also take part in another special ceremony of slaying demons and misfortunes. >>

Sekrenyi Festival

This symbolic slaying is done by target shooting with the use of sticks as wooden spears. All the participants receive Thisisaja, the solemn blessing bestowed upon by an elderly person so that they achieve victory in the struggle against evil. Thus ends the first day, also called Sekre day. Like Terhunyi ritual, men carry the Sekre meat and rice brew to their maternal uncles and receive the same from them in return. >>

Sekrenyi Festival

Rest of the three days are spent in gathering objects for decoration from the forest areas and also making jewelleries like necklaces etc. On the 5th day, the aged folks involve themselves in threading beads. Youths deck up in these ornaments in the evening, and spend the time in merry making. This mood of fun and frolic continues till the end of the festival.

On the last day they cook meat and distribute it amongst the villagers. <>

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Claudia Clare's SHATTERED POTTERY

Speaks about shattered lives of women, and the hopes of rebuilding

Claudia Clare is a potter-painter, best known for her large painted earthenware jars depicting the impact of big events on ordinary lives.

She is also known for her broken and mended pots, a response to the words: 'I was shattered. Now I'm piecing myself slowly back together.'

She is represented by Zuleika Gallery, is a regular contributor to Ceramic Review and is the author of 'Subversive Ceramics,' Bloomsbury 2016.

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SHATTERED POTTERY

I make clay pots to tell stories. My practice mixes ethnographic social research with ceramic practices and writing and includes drawing, photography and film making as part of the process.

SHATTERED POTTERY

Feminism shapes the decisions I make about which stories to tell and how to research them. In the last five years I have focused on women's stories of surviving sexual violence and am currently developing a project about migration stories. Although these are set up as two separate projects, both the stories and the work are closely linked.

Clay pots are good at sustaining the memory of marginalised social stories: they are our museum pieces and archaeological evidence. As part of our everyday lives they are easily recognised and understood. In these two ways, clay pots can function both as memorials and as a call for action.

SHATTERED POTTERY

Artist who makes pots. Feminist - which often governs the decisions about what kind of pots to make. I also make pots with landscapes and roses and no discernible social comment. "Narrative, satirical, allegorical, and observational," according to Emma Ridgeway of Modern Art Oxford. I write - professionally - but it's not my main job. Author of 'Subversive Ceramics,' Bloomsbury 2016, and co-authored, 'The Pot Book,' with Edmund de Waal, Phaidon 2011.

Claudia Clare’s powerful shattered potteries speaks on surviving the sex industry tells a story of recovery from abuse, writes Jo Bartosch.

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SHATTERED POTTERY

It's easy to think art exists in an elitist bubble, and indeed much of what's hung in galleries bears very little relation to the everyday reality of people's lives. But the work of ceramicist Claudia Clare does not shy away from the social issues that shame us all, in particular, the horrors of the sex industry. Claudia Clare makes work that is at once tender and grotesque, onto her pots she captures the brutal reality of men's violence and the tenacity of the women and children who survive.

We are all
Stop-Start a war
Hamasfabolicious
Come and join us at the seaside
In Islamocadificious
We think you'll find the food out here
Is really quite delicious
The weather beach and swimming dear
Is always beneficious
But it's beheading infidels, my dear
The rape and Luciferious
That's what makes the Caliphate
The best vacationtious

In her gallery exhibition, 'And The Door Opened', Claudia Clare performed what might be described as a ritual. A shopping centre in a London suburb was an unlikely setting for the exhibition, 'All The Door Opened'. In the hushed and darkened room, those assembled included survivors, campaigners and friends of the artist.

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SHATTERED POTTERY

Following a minute's silence when the audience were invited to reflect on the lives and deaths women in the sex industry, Claudia Clare lifted one of her pots before dashing it to the ground.

At the moment of impact there was an audible gasp, and the fractured clay images were scattered across the floor. The tension broke, and it felt as if something had been freed – the audience once again began to look at one another.

Claudia Clare not only tells the stories of women on her pots – she also draws attention to the all-too often 'invisible men' who keep the sex industry running. In 'I'm Not The Criminal', a piece that still radiates with the heat of the furnace, a grotesque carousel of pimps and punters chase one another. With forms reminiscent of Otto Dix, the men are portrayed venial, bestial creatures riding and raping horses on the hellish merry-go-round.

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SHATTERED POTTERY

The faces of women who have escaped from the industry stare out through gilded cracks in the pot. In this way Claudia Clare's work is the staunchly feminist, celebrating the resilience of women whilst graphically demonstrating the violence of men.

Other works in the 'And The Door Opened' exhibition are calm and reflective, showing women looking back on their journeys from the sex industry. The stories of those who leave, the women who break free of abusive pimps, are seldom told. One of those featured in this exhibition is that of Fiona Broadfoot. Feminist campaigner and founder of the Build a Girl Project, Fiona was groomed into prostitution as a teenager before exiting in her mid-twenties. She explains:

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SHATTERED POTTERY

Exhibitions like ‘And The Door Opened’ are vital. There’s a lot of money invested in promoting the ‘happy hooker myth’ and it’s easier to believe that the women and girls abused in prostitution chose to be there. Social services and the police write women and children off, and those who are prostituted are blamed for their own abuse. This must change, and I hope those who see this work understand this and that they learn about the stories of the women behind these pots.

Whilst ‘stigma’ is a trope often used by those who campaign for full decriminalisation, it is true that women in prostitution are ‘othered’ and cruelly marginalised. The dignity and hope of those in prostitution are sacrificed so that those comfortably outside the industry can pretend it is a choice freely taken.

SHATTERED POTTERY

This is perhaps an easier narrative, one which absolves us of blame and burden of worry. Claudia Clare's work is a powerful antidote to this comforting lie – it resonates with a vivid, angry truth.

A thread that runs through 'And The Door Opened Exhibition' is recovery from abuse. The slow process of piecing together the pots is an obvious but moving metaphor, leaving a finished piece that is a record both of completeness and destruction. There is still a degree of snobbery in the art world about craft. Ceramics suffer from the stigma of being a practical medium, not 'pure art.'

SHATTERED POTTERY

So much of Claudia Clare's art is concerned with the female experience, and as such it feels fitting that her chosen medium is one that is often overlooked and underestimated. Ultimately Claudia Clare's work speaks of hope, and looking around the room at the faces of the exhibition audience a future free from the trade in human beings seemed possible. At the end of the evening I asked Fiona how it felt to see herself staring from the inside of one of Claudia's pots. She replied:

I exited the industry and have transformed my life – my cousin was not so fortunate, she was murdered. Looking at Claudia's pots I can see my story represented on many levels- like the pots I still carry cracks from when I was broken and can still feel fragile at times, but I am whole and I am proud.

Article by: Jo Bartosch

AMAZING TO KNOW

MADHAV NATIONAL PARK
SHIVPURI, MADHYA PRADESH

Amidst the deciduous forests of Shivpuri, sits George Castle, an early 20th century residence. It was built by Madhao Rao Scindia for King George V of the United Kingdom, as an overnight stay for one of his hunting trips in the forest.

The building, although an architectural beauty, stands for an entirely varied idea and lifestyle that was prevalent during the 19th century.

The language of the building's design, its "turreted" English-style castle, with Belgian glass windows and Italian tile flooring" screams of western dominance over Indian culture.

Madhav National Park in Shivpuri that stands today for the protection of wildlife, was once the reason for the decline of the rich Indian flora and fauna, as it served as a hunting ground for the many Indian rulers as well as the British.

Thought by ILF Expert Mrunal Kelkar

AMAZING TO KNOW

Lat Masjid - Dhar, Madhya Pradesh.

Dhar in the Malwa region of central India had long periods of Hindu and Muslim rule. It was once the capital of the Hindu Parmara Dynasty, known for their patronage of arts and learning, from the 9th to the 13th century. It was conquered by the Delhi Sultanate in 1305 and then became a part of independent province of the Sultans of Malwa when Dilawar Khan broke away in 1401. >>

AMAZING TO KNOW

LAT MASJID - DHAR MADHYA PRADESH.

In 1530s Dhar passed to the Gujarat Sultanate. Lat Masjid was built in 1405 by Dilawar Khan, the first Sultan of Malwa, the mosque takes it name from the iron pillar (lat) which lies outside. The pillar is believed to have been erected by a Parmara ruler to commemorate a military victory, and was broken into pieces when Sultan Bahadur Shah of Gujarat (ruled 1526 - 37) attempted to dig it up. The Mosque was built from the spoils of temples, including carved brackets and pillars. <>

Contribution: Amam Channa

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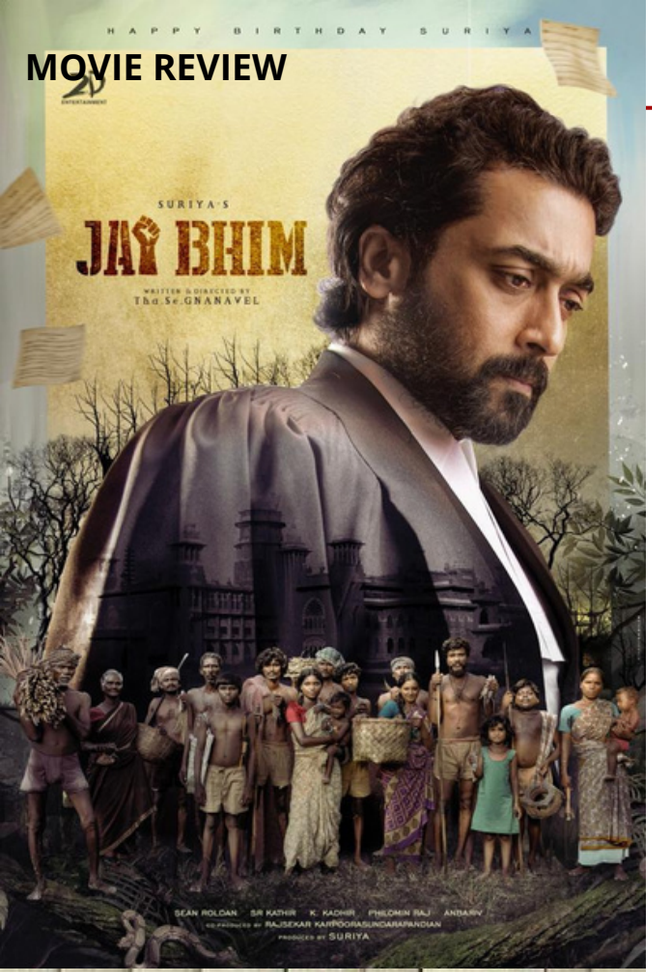


Movie Review

By Varghese Thomas

CRIMINALS IN UNIFORM - Justice V R. Krishna Iyer said in one of his landmark judgment about the police force in India.

Every action of the police force should be scrutinised and questioned.

Jai Bhim is based on the true happenings of a court case that took place in 1993 in Tamil Nadu. The case was handled by Justice K.Chandru who was a lawyer then at the Madras High Court, Tamil Nadu.

Justice K. Chandru

The movie portrays the plight of the tribal minority in a profound way. One develops an instant empathy with the Irulars. The custody torture, police brutality and exploitation of power is portrayed in a graphic and violent manner which leaves a deep impact on the viewers.

Justice V R. Krishna Iyer

The caste discrimination is depicted vividly as the Irulars aren't even treated as humans. The authorities take them for granted and throwing Irulars in prison is second nature to them. >>

Movie Review

The movie addresses the clash between the Police department and the Lawyers as the former was known for being violent while extending their authority.

It also showcases how the society's mindset is such that it is alright for the tribal people to be treated inhumanely as none of the offenders shows any remorse even at one point in the movie. It was intriguing to see how the authorities and Public Prosecutors don't have even an ounce of conscience as they try to quash the case in exchange for money or a higher post despite knowing the truth.

Though the plot takes place in 1995, at the end of the movie it is mentioned that the tribal clans still face such atrocities even today, which is saddening.

Jai Bhim shows that though the law exists in the system, society needs brave and strong-willed Lawyers like Justice K.Chandru and righteous police officers like IG Perumalsamy to work hand in hand for justice to prevail! <>

Embrimia*

Dr. Nithya Mariam

We lay

S i d e by **S i d e**

n a k e d,
flesh probing flesh,
eyes closed…

before the nocturnal bird of prey hooted a lullaby,
your snoring nostrils metamorphosed into the rusty tape recorder at my maternal house,
yes, that one which had grown old with my mother

in the morning I gathered my clothes, tip-toed to the bathroom and washed myself in the long-lost smell of the dead sardines-
which lay one against the other on a plastic sheet, as my grandfather cleaned and stacked those, one upon the other in a mud-bowl…

good morning, he said,
grinning at me

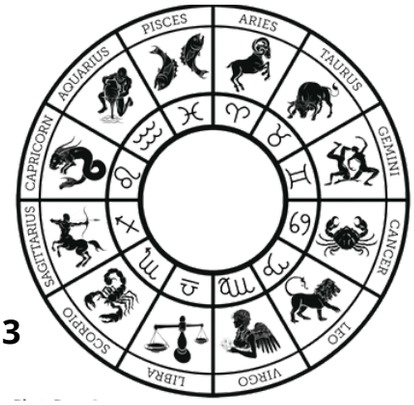
(*Skete is one of the early Christian monastic orders. The community comprises of monks who reside in structures resembling caves or cells, with bare minimum furnishing. Embrimia refers to the woven stool you find inside a cell, on which a monk might pray during the n ight and the later use as a pillow to sleep)

Dr. Nithya John is a poet, translator and editor from Kerala . Apart from her three short collections of poems titled Ruminations and Reflections : A Pinch of Poetry & Perspectives, Bleats and Roars and Poetry Soup, her scribblings are housed in Indian Literature, The Alipore Post, Borderless, gulmohar quarterly, theravenquothpress, Hyderabad Literature Festival-Khabar, Muse India, The Samyuktha Poetry, Malayalam Literature Survey and are forthcoming in Usawa Literary Review and Sanglap . Her stories are on Muse India and Twist & Twain. The Unfinished Masterpiece, 'Companionship' and 'What will you do then?" are her translations of contemporary Malayalam writers. She loves pothos, sweets and milk; but nothing matches her love for books. When neither scribbling nor reading, she dutifully plays her role as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, BCM College, Kottayam.

WEEKLY Tarot Reading

By: Chaitali Mukherjee

https://youtube.com/c/TarotPriestess1313

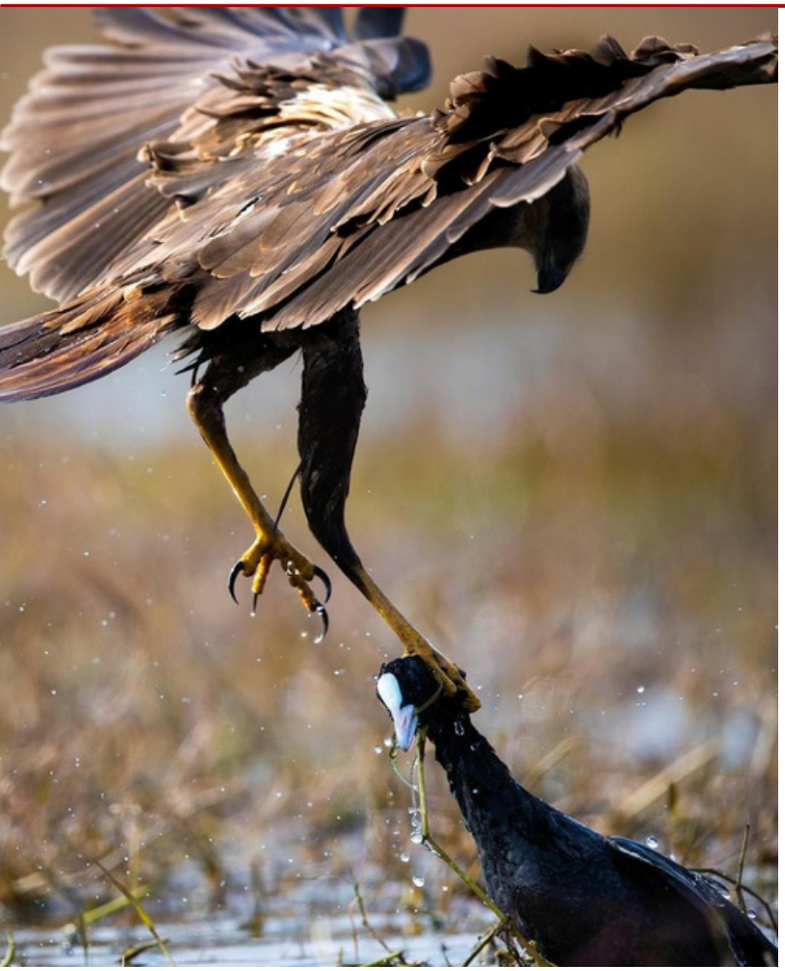


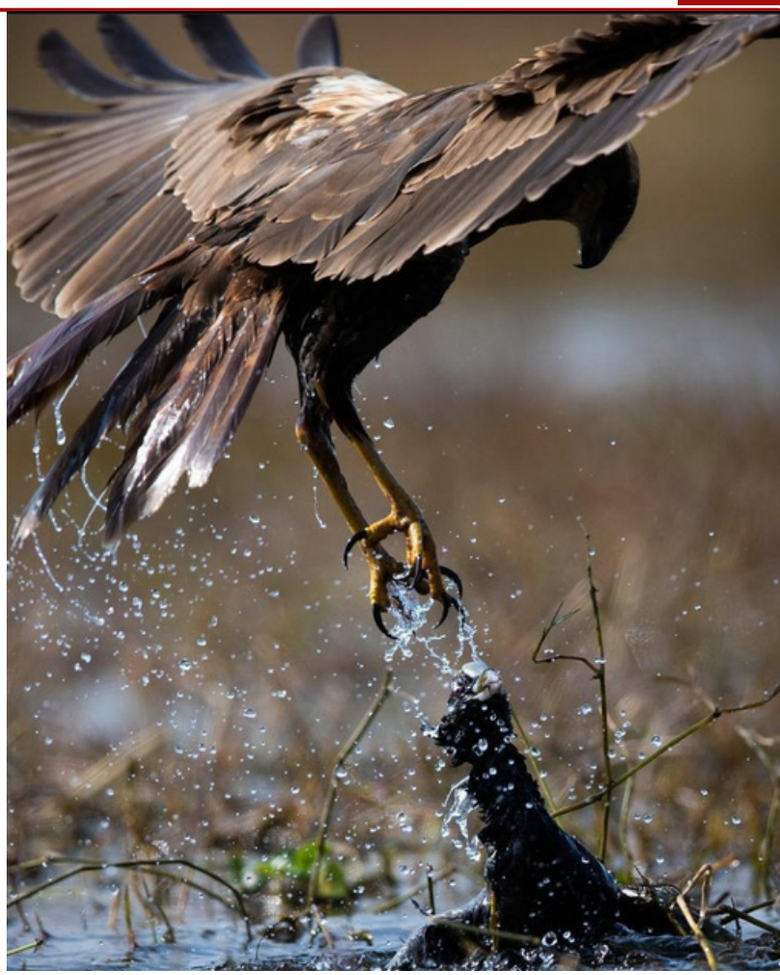
Your Next 7 Days

Nov 19-25, 2021

A deep and intimate friendship will turn into love slowly. A period of overwork, that will bring in success and gradual conquest of a position in life. Trips or chances of rejuvenation after a health problem.	**ARIES**	**LIBRA** To realize your project you will have to sacrifice. You will be given valuable advice or warning that will steer you towards success. Recognition, reward, harmony is possible if you release jealousy and envy.
This is the time to show strength and power in circumstances that try to shake your foundations. You will be steadfast and standing in difficulties as you propel yourself towards growth, prosperity and success.	**TAURUS**	**SCORPIO** You need to stand your ground and deal with the emotional or physical loss you are facing. Release conflict to bring balance in life. You need to accept the truth, decide once and for all to move on from a situation that didn't deliver as promised.
You will have to come, face to face with the truth right now in your life. A big change is coming, a risk that will occur soon will be taken by you with emotional coldness. The time is fraught with risks and fraud, beware!	**GEMINI**	**SAGITTARIUS** A painless solution to a sentimental matter.A surprise realization of a project will give you recognition beyond your hopes. An unexpected profit and stroke of luck is on the cards, wait patiently and see...
Your psychic sensitivity is heightened at this moment, telling you to make a significant change in yourself. You need to get guided by your own wisdom. Be prepared to receive as the Universe is going to fulfil your wishes.	**CANCER**	**CAPRICORN** You have the right strategy now and results are constantly getting more effective. The person you think about will give an encouraging signal. Patience will be rewarded. Success and higher achievements on the cards.
A transformation is happening in your life, something that has ended, needs to be put behind, to realize the potential of the future. New partnerships and alliances get deeper, could become tempting. It's just a matter of time when success unfolds.	**LEO**	**AQUARIUS** After a deep crisis your health or money is recovering. You are getting over losses, quarrels or betrayals. Solutions will come through automatically. With proper advice and reining in finances, things will look better. A trip will rejuvenate you.
There will be victory, at every hurdle. A new situation brings an end to stagnation. You will have a self sacrificial or self doubting energy, but all doubts will go away as extraordinary achievements in love & livelihood starts happening.	**VIRGO**	**PISCES** Things are magically happening for you. Happy unions and extraordinary situations are around you. A serious and real proposal will resolve your problems or will lead you to a gratifying occupation that shows your talents.

To know more about your reading, please watch her YouTube channel - Link in the Homepage





Surviving Deathly Telons.

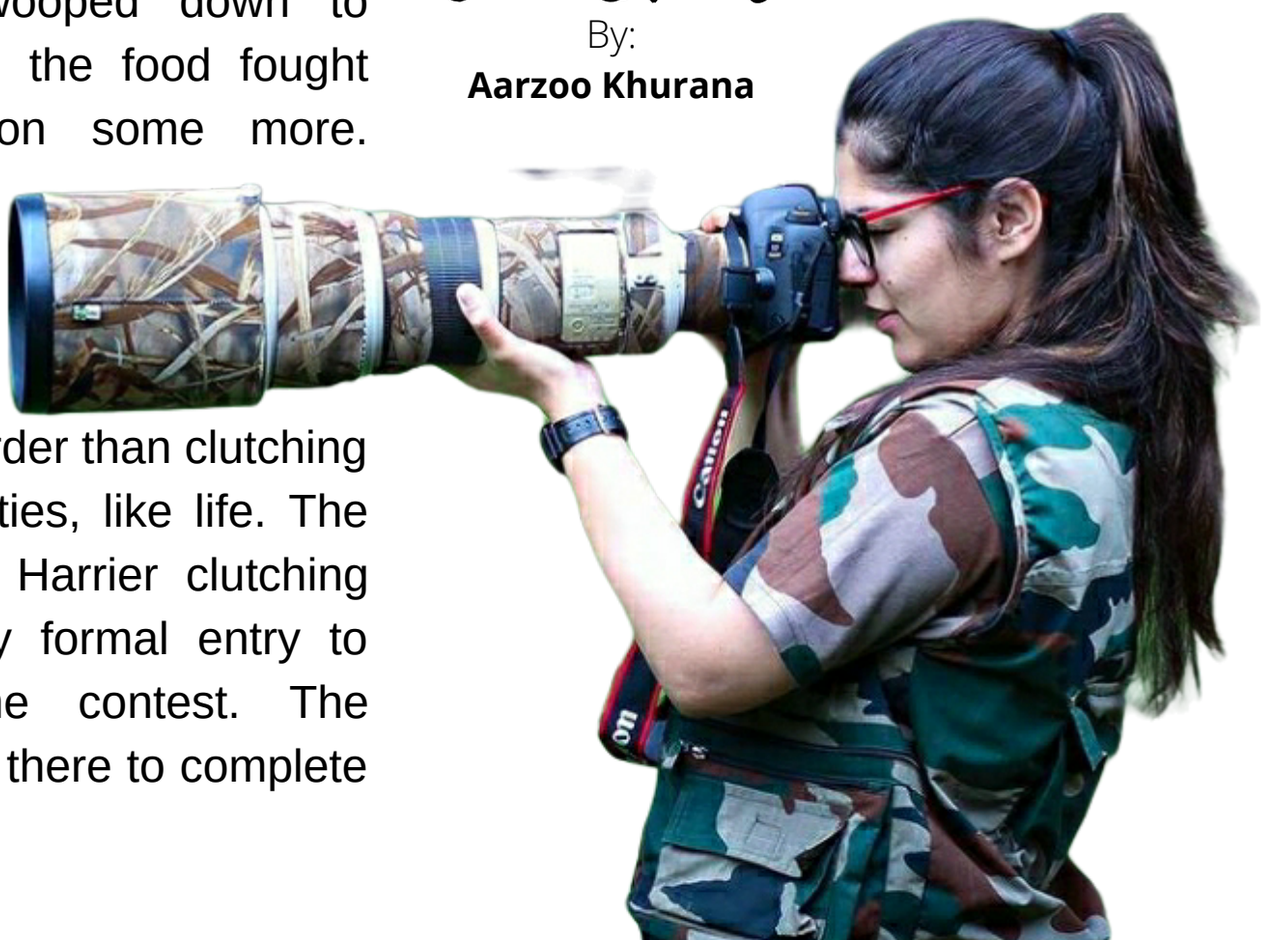
The Harrier swooped down to scoop the food, the food fought back to live on some more. Succeeded.

Holding on is harder than clutching it, like opportunities, like life. The first image (the Harrier clutching the Coot) is my formal entry to NatGeo for the contest. The second image is there to complete the story.

OneWeek OneShot

By:

Aarzoo Khurana



Portraying KERALA

MOONNUPEDIKA

PC: SAAHIL RAHMAN

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